

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 206427
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 PA-02 JUSE-00 L-03
SP-02 SCA-01 VO-03 /083 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
-----105076 292356Z /66

O 292221Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 206427

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA

UNCLAS STATE 206427

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 29

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 29, 1977. FYI
ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. HODDING, DO YOU NOW HAVE ANY DATES FOR THE
RESUMPTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS?

A. NO. THE QUESTION IS, THE RESUMPTION OF THE MIDDLE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 206427

EAST NEGOTIATION DATES, AND THE ANSWER IS, NO, I DON'T
HAVE A FORMAL DATE. IT WILL BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
OPENING OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT I WANT TO BE
CAREFUL -- I'M NOT SURE THAT ALL THE DISCUSSION IS GOING
TO FALL PRECISELY WITHIN THOSE DATES. IT MAY BE A LITTLE
EARLIER AND IT MAY EXTEND SOME, BUT I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE
YOU THOSE RIGHT NOW, QUITE FRANKLY, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT
ALL TIED DOWN. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT IT THIS MORNING.

Q. JUST TO CONFIRM, IN VIEW OF THE PLO ATTITUDE, THERE IS
NOW NO POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WILL BE ANY CONTACTS WITH
THE PLO DURING THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, IS
THERE?

A. I THINK OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF PLO DISCUS-
SIONS IS VERY CLEAR AND THAT THAT POSITION STANDS.

Q. BUT CAN YOU ADD ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF REACTION TO
THE RECENT PLO DECISION IN DAMASCUS?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE A REACTION TO IT.

Q. YOU WELCOME IT?

A. I WOULDN'T CHARACTERIZE THE REACTION TO IT.

Q. WELL, WOULD YOU SAY THAT IT IS AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE?

CAN YOU SAY THAT MUCH?

A. I CAN SAY THAT OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION IS VERY CLEAR.

Q. YOU WON'T EVEN SAY THAT IT IS NOT A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE, LIKE YOU SAID LAST MARCH, OR SOMEBODY SAID LAST MARCH.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 206427

A. OH, PROBABLY ME. I'M NOT PREPARED TO SAY ANYTHING AT THIS TIME.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO CHARACTERIZE THE PLO REFUSAL TO ACCEPT 242 DESPITE THE WATERING DOWN THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO IT, AS A WAY TO HAVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES?

A. I'M REALLY NOT PREPARED TO SAY ANYTHING MORE AT THIS TIME.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE INTERVIEW BY PRESIDENT ASAD IN THE NEW YORK TIMES?

A. NO. WE READ IT, OBVIOUSLY, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY REACTION TO IT.

Q. PRESIDENT ASAD SEEMED TO SPEAK ABOUT THE ARAB LEAGUE, ACCORDING TO THIS TIMES ARTICLE, ALLUDING TO THE ARAB LEAGUE AS BEING A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE PLO. HOW WOULD WE LOOK UPON THE SUGGESTION FROM ARAB SOURCES THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE BE SEATED AS A CONFEREE IN GENEVA?

A. WELL, A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD AT VARIOUS TIMES ON THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. AND AGAIN, WHILE I'M INTERESTED AND THE DEPARTMENT IS INTERESTED IN PRESIDENT ASAD'S SPEECH, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT IN ITS PARTICULARS TODAY. I DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE A NEW IDEA. I MEAN IT'S ONE THAT HAS SURFACED BEFORE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 206427

Q. WHAT ABOUT THIS SUGGESTION ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN ATTORNEY ON THE WEST BANK WHO WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THE PLO. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR HAD A LONG PIECE ABOUT IT WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY, I THINK IT WAS, WHICH WAS RATHER

INTERESTING FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE NEW ELEMENT COMING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING THE PLO AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

A. I CAN SAY IN ALL HONESTY, I DIDN'T SEE THE PIECE AND I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. ALL RIGHT. ON FRIDAY, WHEN THERE WAS A DISCUSSION HERE ABOUT THE PLO OPENING AN OFFICE HERE IN WASHINGTON, OR IF NO BARRIER TO THE PLO OPENING AN OFFICE UNLESS THE MEMBERS WERE BENT ON SABOTAGE OR WERE TERRORISTS, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE LEGAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT THROWS A BOMB OR KILLS A CHILD WITH A GUN, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION WHO COMES POSING AS A PUBLICITY MAN. WHAT IS THE LEGAL DIFFERENCE?

A. I THINK THAT FOR LEGAL DEFINITIONS, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE, AS TO WHAT CONSTITUTES THE STANDARD ON THIS. PERHAPS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WOULD BE THE PLACE TO GO. I'M PERSONALLY NOT QUALIFIED TO GO INTO DISTINCTIONS OF THAT SORT. I MEAN, THOSE ARE LEGAL DETERMINATIONS.

Q. WELL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS A LEGAL SECTION, DOESN'T IT?

A. YES, AND I'M JUST SAYING I'M NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THAT.

Q. CAN YOU GO INTO IT AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THIS?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 206427

A. I'LL SEE IF I CAN GET SOMETHING ON IT, JOE.

Q. ALL RIGHT. WHILE WE'RE STILL ON THIS SUBJECT AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE MC GOVERN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE

DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL WHICH LEADS TO THIS FORWARD STEP TO FURTHER APPEASEMENT FOR THE PLO INDICATES THAT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AT ALL ABOUT THE PLO EITHER IN THE HOUSE OR IN THE SENATE COMMITTEES, BUT WAS BASED ENTIRELY ON TRYING TO PRESENT A SITUATION WHERE THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TO HELSINKI WILL COME WITH "CLEAN HANDS", THAT THEY WON'T BE BARRING PEOPLE FROM THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE THEY ARE COMMUNISTS, AND THIS WAS A DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE SITUATION REGARDING THE SOVIET LABOR DELEGATION THAT WANTED TO COME TO SOME LABOR MEETING HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. AND ON FRIDAY, SUDDENLY THE MC GOVERN ACT BECOMES A PASSPORT, IN EFFECT, FOR THE PLO--SHALL WE

CALL THEM "COMMANDOS?"--COMING INTO THE UNITED STATES
POSING AS PUBLICITY PEOPLE.

A. YES. THE MC GOVERN ACT HAS A GENERAL APPLICATION.
WHILE IT HAS SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN SECTION 21 TO "OUR
DESIRE TO COMPLY MORE FULLY WITH THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT."
WHILE IT HAS THAT GENERAL PURPOSE AND, THEREFORE, MIGHT
BE CONSTRUED NARROWLY TO SORT OF INCLUDE THOSE WHO FALL
WITHIN THE AMBIT, IN FACT THE WORDING OF IT SAYS, "THE
SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD, WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF RECEIVING
AN APPLICATION FOR A NON-IMMIGRANT VISA BY ANY ALIEN
WHO IS EXCLUDABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES BY REASON OF
MEMBERSHIP IN, OR AFFILIATION WITH, A PROSCRIBED
ORGANIZATION, BUT WHO IS OTHERWISE ADMISSIBLE TO THE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 206427

UNITED STATES....." THAT LANGUAGE BEGINS TO GET
SOMEWHAT BROADER.

Q. I AGREE.

MY POINT IS THAT WHEN THIS WAS BEING DISCUSSED NOBODY
BROUGHT UP THE PLO AND SUDDENLY THE PLO GETS INTO IT.

Q. WELL, THE MCGOVERN ACT WAS INTENDED TO LIBERALIZE
OUR VISA POLICY IN REGARD TO PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO
ORGANIZATIONS OR PARTIES OR WHAT HAVE YOU WHO MIGHT
OTHERWISE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ACT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE
UNITED STATES.

NOW, IN CASTING THE NET IN SUCH A WAY, THE FACT THAT
CERTAIN GROUPS WERE MENTIONED AND OTHERS WERE NOT DOES
NOT MEAN THAT THOSE WHO WERE NOT MENTIONED, BUT WHO FALL
WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE OLD ACT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE
LIBERALIZATION. THEY ARE.

Q. WHEN ARE THE THIRTY DAYS UP ON THE APPLICATION?

A. WHEN ARE THE THIRTY DAYS UP ON THE APPLICATION?

JOHN (TRATTNER, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN), AT THIS POINT YOU ARE
GOING TO HAVE TO START PICKING UP ON SOME OF THIS BECAUSE
I AM BEGINNING TO GET A LITTLE VAGUE.

MR. TRATTNER: WHICH APPLICATION?

Q. BY THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE.

MR. TRATTNER: I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE
APPLICATION WAS FILED. IT IS SOMETHING WE COULD PROBABLY
FIND OUT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 206427

A. WE WILL FIND OUT.

Q. THERE WAS A LEFTOVER QUESTION ON THAT POINT ASKING THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE BE IDENTIFIED. I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER WAS.

WAS SOMETHING POSTED ON THIS?

MR. TRATTNER: NO.

I THINK I SAID FRIDAY, OZZIE, THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS AT THAT MOMENT. I THINK THAT IS STILL THE CASE.

Q. YOU MEAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS AND HE HAS ASKED FOR A VISA?

A. I AM SURE WE CAN GET THAT NAME. THAT IS NOT A PROBLEM.

THERE WAS ONE APPLICATION PENDING BY A PLO OFFICIAL AS OF THE TIME THE PRESIDENT SIGNED INTO LAW THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL. THAT WAS AUGUST 17TH. IF THAT IS A PENDING APPLICATION AND THE LAW REQUIRES THIRTY DAYS, THEN I THINK YOU COULD SORT OF MAKE A CONJECTURE THAT IT WOULD BE SEPTEMBER 17TH. BUT, IN ANY CASE I WILL FIND OUT.

Q. BUT IF THE SECRETARY DOES NOT ACT ON THIS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS THIS PERSON IS AUTOMATICALLY GRANTED THE VISA; RIGHT?

A. LET ME GO BACK AND READ THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 206427

"THE SECRETARY SHOULD WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF RECEIVING AN APPLICATION FOR A NON-IMMIGRANT WHO IS OTHERWISE EXCLUDED BUT OTHERWISE ADMISSABLE, RECOMMEND THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL GRANT THE APPROVAL NECESSARY FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A VISA OF SUCH ALIEN UNLESS THE SECRETARY DETERMINED THAT THE ADMISSION OF SUCH ALIEN WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND SO CERTIFIES TO VARIOUS PEOPLE, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE."

SO, IT IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.

MR. KINSOLVING: (LESTER KINSOLVING, NATIONAL NEWS-PAPER SYNDICATE): HODDING, YOU MAY NOT HAVE HAD A CHANCE

TO GO OVER THE TRANSCRIPTS, BUT I AM REFERRING TO THURSDAY'S TRANSCRIPT WHERE MARVIN KALB ENTERED IN THE RECORD A STATEMENT: "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT NO REPORTER IN THIS ROOM SHOULD EVER HAVE HIS PROFESSIONALISM QUESTIONED BY ANOTHER REPORTER IN THE COURSE OF MERELY A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN."

I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO GO ON RECORD AS SECONDING THAT, BUT WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THIS CAME AFTER JOE POLAKOFF HAD ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS, NOT UNLIKE SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM WHO HAVE ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS WITHOUT EVER BEING SUBJECT TO GRATUITOUS REMARKS, CRITICISMS OR EVEN SLURS.

I JUST WONDERED. MARVIN SAID THAT HE HOPES THAT THIS WILL NOT BE REPEATED AND I WONDERED HOW THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN SOMEHOW GUARANTEE THIS BECAUSE THIS HAS HAPPENED TO PECKARSKY (PETER PECKARSKY, BUCKEYE NEWS AND REVIEW), IT HAS HAPPENED TO POLAKOFF (JOSEPH POLAKOFF, JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY), IT HAS HAPPENED TO ME. I JUST WONDER HOW THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN GO ABOUT INHIBITING THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 206427

THERE WAS SOME REFERENCE, I THINK MR. TRATTNER MADE, TO A BRIEFING FOR EVERYBODY AND THE RULES OF THE BRIEFING, ALTHOUGH UNSTATED IN ANY WRITING, ARE THAT NORMAL, REASONABLE BEHAVIOR IS EXPECTED AND EVERYBODY GETS A CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS.

I JUST WONDER WHAT CAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT DO TO INHIBIT BEHAVIOR OF THIS SORT FROM CERTAIN ELITISTS IN THIS GROUP.

MR. ANDERSON (JAMES ANDERSON, UPI CORRESPONDENT): MAY I HAVE A POINT OF ORDER?

I THINK YOU ARE PUTTING THE QUESTION TO THE WRONG PEOPLE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS --

MR. KINSOLVING: I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS ANSWER.

MR. ANDERSON: THE STATE DEPARTMENT --

MR. KINSOLVING: HODDING, I WAS ASKING YOU AND THIS IS ONE MORE INTERRUPTION.

Q. FREE SPEECH.

MR. KINSOLVING: I DON'T ANSWER MR. ANDERSON'S QUESTIONS. I ASK YOU, HODDING. THIS IS A PERFECT ILLUSTRATION OF IT.

WHO CALLED ON HIM? I DON'T WANT TO ASK MR. ANDERSON FOR ANYTHING. I WAS ASKING YOU A QUESTION, HODDING.

MR. ANDERSON: MAY I CONTINUE MY POINT?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 206427

MR. KINSOLVING: ARE WE GOING TO HAVE MORE INTERRUPTIONS BECAUSE I MEAN JOE I AM SURE AND I AND OTHERS CAN CONTINUE THIS, IF YOU WANT. THERE IS A PERFECT ILLUSTRATION OF IT.

HODDING, CAN WE GET SOME ANSWER ON IT?

MR. ANDERSON: MAY I CONTINUE MY POINT OF ORDER, PLEASE?

MR. KINSOLVING: I OBJECT TO THIS.

I HAVE NOT YIELDED THE FLOOR TO YOU, MISTER.

A. THERE IS NO YIELDING OF THE FLOOR. I CONTROL THAT.

YES, JIM.

MR. ANDERSON: THE BEHAVIOR OF THE CORRESPONDENTS IS A MATTER FOR THE CORRESPONDENTS, NOT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND IF YOU WANT TO BRING IT UP AT A MEETING OF THE CORRESPONDENTS, I THINK YOU HAVE A PERFECT RIGHT TO DO SO.

MR. KINSOLVING: I BEG TO DIFFER. I AM NOT A MEMBER OF THE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION THROUGH THE COURTESY OF MR. ANDERSON AND OTHERS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE

CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION, IS THIS ESTABLISHED BY ANY LEGISLATION FROM CONGRESS OR ACT OF THE SECRETARY, OR IS IT AN UNOFFICIAL GROUP, HODDING?

A. IT IS A PROFESSIONAL GROUP.

MR. KINSOLVING: IS IT AN OFFICIAL GROUP?

A. WHAT DO YOU MEAN "OFFICIAL GROUP?"
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 206427

MR. KINSOLVING: DOES IT HAVE ANY FORCE OF LAW?

A. IT IS NOT AN AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT.

MR. KINSOLVING: WHAT IS THAT SIGN DOING UP THERE AND THAT SIGN DOING UP THERE, WHERE WE ARE ORDERED TO REPORT TO THIS UNOFFICIAL ORGANIZATION.

IF WE START A RIVAL ORGANIZATION, CAN WE PUT UP A SIGN THAT SAYS YOU REPORT TO US BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE BRIEFING?

A. THIS IS, QUITE FRANKLY, A MATTER THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE OPERATION OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AS YOU KNOW, YOU ARE HERE, RECOGNIZES THOSE WHO COME IN HERE WITHOUT REGARD TO AFFILIATION IN THE ORGANIZATION, FIRST.

THE SECOND THING IS INsofar AS WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THIS ROOM IS CONCERNED, I WOULD THINK THAT ALL OF US ARE BOTH ADULT ENOUGH, MATURE ENOUGH, TO TAKE, YOU KNOW, A FAIR AMOUNT OF BY-PLAY BACK AND FORTH AND I THINK EVERYBODY GETS THEIR CHANCE IN HERE; THAT NOBODY GETS CUT OFF FROM THIS PODIUM AND NOBODY IS GOING TO BE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS NO WAY THIS PODIUM IS GOING TO TRY TO EXERCISE SOME KIND OF CONSTRAINT EITHER.

NOW, IF AT A GIVEN POINT THE THING GETS OUT OF HAND, I DO HAVE ONE OPTION, WHICH IS TO SAY THE BRIEFING IS OVER AND YOU CAN CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION SOMEWHERE ELSE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 206427

THE MAIN POINT, OBVIOUSLY OF THIS BRIEFING IS FOR ME TO PRESENT CERTAIN VIEWS AND FOR YOU TO ELICIT INFORMATION ABOUT VIEWS AND FACTS AS WE PRESENT THEM.

BUT, I HAVE NEVER NOTICED YET A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THIS

COUNTRY OR IN MOST PLACES WHICH DID NOT ALSO INVOLVE SOMETHING THAT WENT BEYOND JUST THE PURE FORMAL DESCRIPTION OF A NEWS BRIEFING OR PRESS CONFERENCE.

THOSE THINGS, HOWEVER, ARE REALLY NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE EXCEPT INsofar AS THEY INTEREFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF THE BRIEFING, IN WHICH CASE I DO HAVE SOME RECOURSE, WHICH I WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE TO DO.

MR. KINSOLVING: HODDING, JUST LET ME CLOSE BY SAYING THAT I THINK THE RECORD WILL SHOW THAT NEITHER JOE POLAKOFF NOR PECKARSKY OR I HAVE EVER WILLINGLY OR DELIBERATELY MADE COMMENTS ON THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY ANYONE ELSE IN THIS ROOM AND I AM SURE I CAN SPEAK FOR JOE IN SAYING THAT HE DOESN'T INTEND TO AND I DON'T INTEND TO AND WE WOULD ASK AND HOPE VERY MUCH THAT YOU WOULD SOMEHOW INHIBIT THESE OTHER PEOPLE FROM DOING IT IN THE CAUSE OF MUTUAL CIVILITY.

THANK YOU.

MR. DUNSMORE (BARRIE DUNSMORE - AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY): HODDING, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A POINT.

THE THURSDAY INCIDENT TO WHICH HE REFERRED, OF COURSE, INVOLVES ME. I OBJECTED TO THIS BRIEFING BEING DOMINATED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE IT SEEMS MORE OFTEN THAN NOT TO SERVE CAUSES RATHER THAN TO ELICIT INFORMATION.

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING THEN, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14 STATE 206427

SILENCE TO BE INTERPRETED AS A LACK OF CONVICTION. I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT WE ARE HERE AS PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS TO ELICIT INFORMATION FROM YOU AND THAT WE DO NOT SERVE THE CAUSE OF JOURNALISM BY ATTEMPTING TO SERVE SPECIAL CAUSES NOR DO WE SERVE THOSE CAUSES THEMSELVES.

MR. POLAKOFF (JOSEPH POLAKOFF, JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY): WELL, SINCE THAT HAS BEEN SAID, I THINK MAYBE THERE OUGHT TO BE A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS. I WAS GOING TO ASK OR SUGGEST THAT TO YOU, HODDING, AFTER LES HAD MADE HIS TALK.

I SPEAK FOR MYSELF AND I APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THERE IS SOME SUPPORT FOR MY ASKING QUESTIONS, BUT TO SAY THAT I AM SERVING SOME SPECIAL CAUSE, THAT IS AN ALLEGATION THAT CAN BE LEVELED AT A LOT OF OTHERS IN THIS ROOM, NOT ONLY AT ME.

I WOULD LIKE THIS DISCUSSION TO END HERE, IF I MAY SAY SO, WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS IDEA BY THE OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS, BY EVERYBODY, THAT WHEN QUESTIONS ARE ASKED, WHETHER THEY ARE PUT IN THE FORM THAT IS TO THE DISLIKE OF SOME MEMBER WHO DELIBERATELY WALKS OUT OF THE BRIEFING, WHICH IS ALSO AN UNPROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE, I THINK PERHAPS IT IS UP TO YOU, HODDING, OR WHOEVER IS UP THERE AT THE PODIUM TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE QUESTION IS FAIR OR WHETHER THE COMMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUESTION ARE FAIR.

A. NO. WAIT.

MR. POLAKOFF: NOT HAVE ANY REPORTER SAY--MAKE ANY
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 15 STATE 206427

ILLUSIONS TO IT OR ATTEMPT TO CUT OFF THE QUESTION.

A. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, NO QUESTION HAS EVER BEEN CUT OFF. IF I WERE TO START REFERRING TO EVERY QUESTION THAT I THOUGHT WAS UNFAIR, UNPROFESSIONAL, IN ANY KIND OF TERMS LIKE THAT, ONE, I WOULD BE RUN OUT OF THIS ROOM AND, TWO, I MIGHT BE TALKING MORE OFTEN THAN I SHOULD.

I THINK THAT THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE WORKED THROUGH BY THOSE OF YOU WHO WORK IN THIS ROOM. I, OBVIOUSLY, WOULD HOPE THAT WHAT WE ARE GOING TO BE CONFINED TO IN HERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPOKESMAN AND PRESS, WHICH INVOLVES YOUR TRYING TO GO SOME LOGICAL AVENUES AND ME TRYING TO EITHER ANSWER IT OR NOT ANSWER, DEPENDING ON WHAT SEEMS NECESSARY AT THE TIME.

BUT, THE REST OF IT, GENTLEMEN AND LADIES, I AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY THAT THERE IS SOME PROHIBITION ON THE FREE SPEECH OPERATES IN HERE, EXCEPT INsofar AS IT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDUCT THE BRIEFING.

Q. HODDING, A TECHNICAL MATTER.

EARLIER IN THE BRIEFING YOU SPOKE ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSIONS STARTING WITH THE MEETINGS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE TIME OF THE UNGA.

DOESN'T IT REALLY START, I MEAN RATHER FORMALLY WITH THE SECRETARY MEETING MR. GROMYKO IN VIENNA ON SEPTEMBER 7TH OR 8TH. THEY ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST THEN TOO.

A. WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY WAS THAT I WOULDN'T WANT TO

BE HELD TO JUST THAT AREA BECAUSE, IN FACT, I BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO BE HAPPENING UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 16 STATE 206427

BEFORE THE UNGA OPENS.

YES, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q. THE OTHER THING IS: ARE THESE MINISTERS, WILL THEY BE COMING TO WASHINGTON AS WELL IN VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO TALK WITH THEM?

A. I HAVE A FEELING THAT SOME WILL BE COMING HERE.

AGAIN, THIS ISN'T TIED DOWN ENOUGH FOR ME TO START GIVING YOU AN AGENDA OR AN ITEM. BUT, I BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE SOME COMING.

Q. THERE IS ALSO TALK ABOUT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN COMING HERE IN OCTOBER. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

A. I HAVE HEARD THAT REPORT AND I AM NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM IT. YOU MIGHT ON THAT ONE CHECK WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AS WELL.

MR. KINSOLVING: COULD I GO BRIEFLY TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. YES.

MR. KINSOLVING: THERE ARE RECORDS IN THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESS GALLERY THAT INDICATE AT THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT IN THE '50'S TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THE GALLERY BECAUSE IT WAS ALLEGED THAT THEY WERE AN ARM OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE.

THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO RECORD THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE OBJECTION TO THIS STATEMENT AND THIS SLUR AND IMPLICATIONS. UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 17 STATE 206427

TION THAT THERE IS ANY ONE HERE WHO IS SERVING CAUSES RATHER THAN ELICITING INFORMATION.

I DON'T THINK THAT EVEN THE WEALTHIEST TELEVISION NETWORK HAS A RIGHT TO CAST SUCH AN ASPIRATION ON JOE POLAKOFF OR THE JTA.

A. I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I WILL BE GLAD TO DO AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO THIS FROM THE PODIUM ANYMORE. I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO MEET WITH ANY OF YOU WHO WANT TO DISCUSS THIS KIND OF MATTER AT ANY LENGTH.

I WILL BE DOING IT, LES, AS A SPOKESMAN OF THE STATE

DEPARTMENT, AS SOMEBODY CONCERNED ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THIS ROOM.

MR. POLAKOFF: TO CLOSE IT ALL OFF, AND I HOPE IT IS THE LAST TIME WE HAVE TO HAVE ANYTHING ABOUT THIS IN ANY WAY, I WILL BE GLAD TO SHAKE HANDS WITH DUNSMORE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS BRIEFING, HAVE EVERYTHING FORGOTTEN, FORGIVEN, AND LET'S START AFRESH TOMORROW OR WHENEVER, THE NEXT BRIEFING, AS PROFESSIONALS AND NOT TRY TO INTIMIDATE OR INHIBIT ANYBODY.

A. IT WAS ALWAYS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT I WAS NOT A SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER, WHICH MEANS THAT I AM NOT SUPPOSED TO BE SKILLED IN DIPLOMACY. YOU WILL HAVE TO HANDLE THAT YOURSELVES. (LAUGHTER.)

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE206427
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770312-0605
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708117/baaaetqj.tel
Line Count: 650
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40ea5751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 12
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1446424
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 29
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40ea5751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009